

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101004
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /050 R

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EA/P:JCANNON (SUBS)

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O P 200023Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, KS, US, KN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRAVEL OF U.S. TABLE TENNIS TEAM TO NORTH
KOREA IN 1979 -- PRESS GUIDANCE

1. DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR SPOKESMAN'S
USE AT APRIL 19 NOON BRIEFING. BEGIN TEXT.

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREA -- PING-PONG

Q: JAPANESE AND KOREAN PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE
UNITED STATES TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN INVITED
TO TAKE PART IN THE 1979 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PYONGYANG
AND THAT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED. IS THIS TRUE?

A: YES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS NOTIFIED BY THE US
TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN
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AUGUST, 1977 THAT THE ASSOCIATION PLANNED TO SEND A TEAM
TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NORTH KOREA IN 1979.

Q: WILL THE UNITED STATES ALLOW THE TEAM TO TRAVEL TO
PYONGYANG?

A: NO QUESTION OF PERMISSION ARISES SINCE PASSPORT

RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING TO NORTH KOREA
EXPIRED ON MARCH 18, 1977.

Q: WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VISIT?
DOES THIS REPRESENT A NORTH KOREAN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE
ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES?

A: WE SEE NO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

Q: HAS THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT TAKEN THIS MATTER UP
OR PROTESTED IT TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN
GOVERNMENT. (IF ASKED: IF HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.
I'M NOT PREPARED TO CHARACTERIZE ROKG VIEWS.) END TEXT.

2. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ON SUBJECT AT BRIEFING.
(FYI) KOREAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN OUT OF
WASHINGTON ON TRIP AND WILL RETURN LATE APRIL 19. (END FYI)

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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